

QUESTION
 A 45-year-old male patient with a long history of alcohol abuse presents to the emergency department with severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and confusion. The patient's vital signs are stable, but his physical examination reveals a markedly tender abdomen with guarding and rigidity. Laboratory studies show a serum amylase level of 1200 U/L and a serum lipase level of 800 U/L. The patient's medical history is significant for chronic pancreatitis and a recent episode of acute pancreatitis. The patient's family history is notable for a brother who died of a similar condition at a young age. The patient's physical examination is otherwise unremarkable. The patient's laboratory studies are as follows:

Test	Result	Reference Range
Serum Amylase	1200 U/L	30-100 U/L
Serum Lipase	800 U/L	0-160 U/L
Serum Calcium	8.5 mg/dL	9.0-10.5 mg/dL
Serum Magnesium	1.5 mg/dL	1.7-2.2 mg/dL
Serum Phosphorus	2.5 mg/dL	2.5-4.5 mg/dL
Serum Creatinine	1.2 mg/dL	0.7-1.3 mg/dL
Serum Glucose	100 mg/dL	70-100 mg/dL
Serum Bilirubin	1.2 mg/dL	0.1-1.2 mg/dL
Serum Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)	150 U/L	0-40 U/L
Serum Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)	180 U/L	0-40 U/L
Serum Gamma-Glutamyl Transaminase (GGT)	150 U/L	0-40 U/L
Serum Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP)	100 U/L	40-120 U/L

ANSWERS

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ANSWER
 The patient's laboratory studies are consistent with acute pancreatitis. The elevated serum amylase and lipase levels are the most specific findings for this condition. The patient's physical examination and medical history are also consistent with this diagnosis. The patient's family history is notable for a brother who died of a similar condition at a young age, which is suggestive of a genetic predisposition to pancreatitis. The patient's physical examination is otherwise unremarkable. The patient's laboratory studies are as follows: